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Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 69/120. Fifteen Member States and the International Committee of the Red Cross transmitted to the Secretary-General the information requested by the Assembly in that resolution. A list of States parties to the Additional Protocols of 1977 and 2005 is contained in the annex.

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I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 14 of resolution 69/120, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its seventy-first session a report on the status of the Additional Protocols relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts and on measures taken to strengthen the existing body of international humanitarian law, inter alia, with respect to its dissemination and full implementation at the national level, based on information received from Member States and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

2. Pursuant to that request,[1] the Secretary-General, by notes verbales dated 21 January 2015 and 14 March 2016 and letters dated 21 January 2015 and 10 March 2016, invited Member States and ICRC to transmit to him by 1 June 2016 the information requested for inclusion in the present report.

3. Replies have been received from the following States: Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Cuba, El Salvador, Lebanon, Lithuania, Qatar, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as from ICRC. Summaries of the replies are contained in sections II and III of the present report. The texts of the replies are available on the website of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly (www.un.org/ga/sixth).

4. The list of all States that are parties to the Additional Protocols of 1977 and of 2005[2] to the Geneva Conventions of 1949[3] as at 1 June 2016 is contained in the annex to the present report.

II. Information received from Member States

Austria

[Original: English]
[1 June 2016]

Since the previous report of Austria in 2014, a number of measures were taken to strengthen the existing body of international humanitarian law, inter alia, with respect to its dissemination and full implementation at the national level:

1. Austria has continued to support the process aiming at strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law, pursuant to the pledge ICRC and Switzerland made at the thirty-first International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent at the very beginning in 2011, and has actively participated in a series of expert meetings and meetings of States. During that process, Austria has continuously supported the creation of a special mechanism for that purpose as well as the idea of fact-finding and a revival of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission under article 90 of Additional Protocol I, and considers fact-finding an essential element of a future international humanitarian law compliance mechanism.

[1] Belgium and Slovenia submitted information pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/93 of 14 December 2012.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513; vol. 2404, No. 43425.

[3] Ibid., vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

At the thirty-second International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, together with other States and national societies, Austria co-hosted two side events. First, Austria hosted a side event on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas in order to raise awareness of the consequences of the use of such weapons in cities and urban areas. The second side event concerned the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, on which the international community is refocusing its attention in view of the humanitarian consequences and the risks associated with nuclear weapons.

At the thirty-second Conference, Austria supported the resolution on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law and the resolution on strengthening international humanitarian law protecting persons deprived of their liberty that were prepared by ICRC.

On the occasion of the thirty-second Conference, Austria submitted pledges, in part with the Austrian Red Cross, concerning the topics of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, the Arms Trade Treaty, the Swiss initiative on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law, the humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons, the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the dissemination of international humanitarian law through regular seminars on various topics and the dissemination of international humanitarian law among the younger generation. Furthermore, Austria supported pledges regarding the provision of information on dead migrants to their families; the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission; youth engagement for a better world; strengthening the protection of education during armed conflict; the safety and security of humanitarian personnel; changing minds, saving lives and building resilience through values-based education for all; and the pledges of the European Union and its member States.

2. Under the joint pledge of Austria and the Austrian Red Cross on the dissemination of international humanitarian law through regular seminars on various topics, submitted at the thirty-first International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2011, Austria continued to organize seminars with the Austrian Red Cross and the universities of Graz and Linz. After the seminars entitled "Nuclear weapons — the sword of Damocles: the humanitarian dimension of nuclear disarmament" in Vienna on 21 November 2012 and "Drones approaching Austria: legal challenges of the use of unmanned aerial vehicles for military and civil use" in Graz on 6 December 2013, a seminar on "Lethal autonomous weapon systems" was organized in Linz on 9 October 2015.

3. On 19 November 2014, a conference was convened in Vienna by the Austrian Red Cross in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the first Geneva Convention of 1864. Representatives of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs as well as the Federal Ministry of Defence and Sports took part in that event.

4. During the period under review, Austria also incorporated into the Austrian Criminal Code the specific crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as well as the crimes of torture and enforced disappearance. The amendments to the Austrian Criminal Code entered into force on 1 January 2015 (see Federal Law Gazette BGBl. I Nr. 106/2014). The following sections were inserted: 321a ("Crimes against humanity"), 321b ("War crimes against persons"), 321c ("War crimes against property and other rights"), 321d ("War crimes against

international missions and misuse of emblems"), 321e ("War crimes of use of prohibited methods of warfare"), 321f ("War crimes of use of prohibited means of warfare"), 321g ("Responsibility of superiors"), 321h ("Breach of supervisory duty"), 321i ("Omission to report an offence") and 321j ("Actions pursuant to military and other orders").

5. The Austrian Ministry of Defence and Sports regularly organizes the "Vienna course on international law for military legal advisers", which takes place under the auspices of the European Security and Defence College. The main aim of the course is to convey core knowledge about the application of international law, in particular human rights law and international humanitarian law, to international crisis-management operations by military and security forces.

6. The Austrian Ministry of Defence and Sports has published a compilation of legal documents on international humanitarian law, including both international treaties to which Austria is a party and Austrian laws and regulations, to serve as a key reference document, especially for legal advisers and law teachers, for the training of members of the Austrian Armed Forces in international humanitarian law. During the period under review the compilation had been updated twice.

Belarus

[Original: Russian]
[17 June 2016]

The Republic of Belarus attaches great importance to the implementation of international humanitarian law. Implementation efforts cover several areas:

- The improvement of national law and of law-enforcement practice;
- Accession to international treaties on international humanitarian law that develop the provisions of the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols thereto;
- Dissemination of knowledge about international humanitarian law, study of practice in the implementation of international humanitarian law obligations and cooperation with the authorities of foreign States that are responsible for implementing international humanitarian law.

The Republic of Belarus is a party to the vast majority of international treaties in the area of international humanitarian law.

During the period under review, a number of legislative and regulatory measures were taken to implement international humanitarian law. Significant progress was made in bringing Belarusian criminal law into line with the rules of international humanitarian law, including with regard to the incorporation into national law of rules providing for the suppression of war crimes and establishing criminal accountability for their commission.

Specifically, amendments were made to the Criminal Code of Belarus to criminalize at the national level the acts referred to in article 15 of the Second Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 14 May 1954 and to implement the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of 10 December 1984. Efforts were also made to fulfil the obligations set out in the Optional

Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict of 25 May 2000. In addition, amendments were made to Belarusian law in order to regulate the use of the Red Crystal emblem and to ensure its protection.

On 10 January 2015, significant amendments were made to the Martial Law Act. This instrument sets forth the legal situation of citizens and organizations during a period of martial law, which would be introduced, inter alia, in the event of an armed conflict in the territory of Belarus.

The Act governs the following:

- The designation of civilian objects and military objectives in accordance with the rules of international humanitarian law;
- The internment of nationals of a foreign State that has carried out an attack;
- Temporary resettlement of civilian populations;
- Prosecution of persons who have committed crimes during a period of martial law.

In 1998, a commission for the implementation of international humanitarian law was established under the Council of Ministers of Belarus as a special standing interdepartmental advisory body to coordinate the work of ministries and other State bodies and organizations on incorporating the rules of international humanitarian law into Belarusian law.

The commission has participated in the drafting of resolutions of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. Specifically, the Belarusian delegation to the thirty-second International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (Geneva, 8-10 December 2015) communicated its position at the time of adoption of the resolutions at the Conference, including on the issues of strengthening international humanitarian law protecting persons deprived of their liberty, strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law, sexual and gender-based violence, health care and the protection of humanitarian volunteers.

Belarus has on several occasions co-organized and hosted regional seminars on the implementation of international humanitarian law. For example, the fifth Regional Seminar on Implementation of International Humanitarian Law, held in Minsk from 18 to 20 May 2015, was attended by representatives of the ministries of foreign affairs, defence, justice and culture of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, representatives of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Collective Security Treaty Organization, and experts from ICRC.

At the 2015 Seminar, discussions took place on current trends in the implementation of international humanitarian law, problems in preventing violations of international humanitarian law and mechanisms for compliance with international humanitarian law. The event allowed States from the region to assess achievements and share practical experience with regard to the implementation of international humanitarian law at the national level. In addition, participants were given an opportunity to discuss current issues in the development of international humanitarian law with representatives of ICRC and regional and international experts.

Representatives of the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice and of Belarusian institutions of higher education, took part in the sixth Martens Readings, an international conference on international humanitarian law, in 2015. The conference participants discussed mechanisms for ensuring compliance with international humanitarian law, war reporting, national and international criminal justice and current issues in the teaching of international humanitarian law.

Belarus attaches particular importance to the dissemination of knowledge about international humanitarian law. International humanitarian law is studied in general secondary schools and in institutions of higher education under particular subjects, as a separate discipline or as part of optional courses.

Events for the dissemination of knowledge about international humanitarian law among the armed forces of Belarus are held as part of yearly action plans on international military cooperation and cooperation between the Ministry of Defence of Belarus and the regional delegations of ICRC in the Russian Federation, Belarus and the Republic of Moldova. Military personnel and students of military subjects are regularly provided with information about the humanitarian problems associated with warfare and the humanitarian work of ICRC. A number of representatives of the Ministry of Defence of Belarus have received training at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy.

Knowledge about international humanitarian law is also disseminated through various kinds of competitions and olympiads.

The international youth olympiad, "Youth for Peace", has become an established tradition. These olympiads are usually held at MITSO International University in the form of a role-playing game that helps to improve students' knowledge of international humanitarian law, develops their ability to apply theoretical knowledge in practice and helps Belarus to fulfil its obligations under the 1949 Geneva Conventions relating to the dissemination of knowledge about international humanitarian law. Over the years, representatives of more than 35 States have taken part in the olympiads.

The Red Cross Society of Belarus, which organizes academic competitions every year on current topics in international humanitarian law, contributes significantly to the dissemination of knowledge about international humanitarian law.

In sum, the period under review demonstrates the importance Belarus attaches to the implementation of international humanitarian law and the dissemination of knowledge about it and to measures aimed at strengthening the existing rules of international humanitarian law.

Belgium

[Original: French]
[17 October 2014]

With respect to the report requested in paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 67/93 of 14 December 2012 on the status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts, Belgium wishes to refer to the information it provided in 2008 (see

A/63/118), which consolidated and supplemented its previous reports on the issue and highlighted the active support of Belgium for, in particular:

- The development of international humanitarian law, especially in the area of limiting or prohibiting the use of conventional weapons that may cause unnecessary suffering or have indiscriminate effects, and observance of that law;
- ICRC and its work on behalf of victims of armed conflicts;
- National and international enforcement mechanisms in the field of international humanitarian law.

Belgium also recalls the information it provided in 2010 (see A/65/138/Add.1) and 2012 (see A/67/182/Add.1), which supplements the exhaustive report provided in 2008.

The most noteworthy legislative developments since 2012 are the following:

- On 26 November 2013, Belgium ratified the amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression and the amendments to article 8 of the Statute, adopted at the Review Conference held in Kampala;
- On 3 June 2014, Belgium ratified the Arms Trade Treaty;
- The Act of 4 July 1956 on the protection of the designations, signs and emblems of the Red Cross was amended by the Act of 22 November 2013 to bring it into conformity with the Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III), adopted in Geneva on 8 December 2005. As a result of that legislative amendment, Belgium is in a position to ratify Protocol III;
- The Act of 29 March 2004 on cooperation with the International Criminal Court and the international criminal tribunals was amended by the Act of 26 March 2014 strengthening measures for cooperation with international criminal jurisdictions, inter alia, in respect of the protection of witnesses and interim release;
- The Royal Decree of 23 August 2014 establishing the Belgian Task Force for International Criminal Justice, which formalizes coordination among all the national authorities involved in supporting, implementing or developing international criminal justice, entered into force on 15 September 2014.

Regarding cooperation with international criminal jurisdictions, Belgium and the International Criminal Court have concluded an agreement on the interim release of detainees in Belgian territory pursuant to rulings handed down by the Court.

The Belgian Ministry of Defence has taken a number of measures to further integrate international humanitarian law into its chain of operations and personnel training:

- In 2013, the Ministry established an operational law structure (Protocol I, art. 82) consisting of legal advisers. Their mandate is to advise the different

units of the general staff of the armed forces and military commanders on legal aspects of the planning and execution of military operations;

- The Ministry also instituted a military commission on the law of armed conflict, with responsibility for drawing up a list of the measures taken within the Ministry to implement the law of armed conflict and for organizing and monitoring the application of those measures;
- The curriculum for cadets at the Royal Military Academy includes a course specifically focusing on international humanitarian law;
- An operational law handbook for military commanders and legal advisers is currently being prepared.

Finally, Belgium has actively participated in mechanisms for the protection of cultural property, in particular through the following actions:

- The deposit in November 2012, with the Committee established under the second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954, of an indicative list of cultural property for which the granting of enhanced protection could be requested;
- A proposal, granted in December 2013, that the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict add three items of Belgian cultural property to the List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection;
- Service as Vice-Chair (2011-2012) and Chair (2012-2014) of that Committee, with the creation of an international platform involving the Chair of the Committee and representatives of ICRC and the International Committee of the Blue Shield;
- The organization of an international symposium on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, held on 12 and 13 December 2013.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[17 July 2015]

The four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977 retain their full validity and serve as the pillars of international humanitarian law for the protection of victims of armed conflicts. More than an international legal obligation, full compliance with those instruments is an ethical and moral imperative in the conduct of hostilities and military operations.

Cuba signed the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 on the very day they were adopted and ratified them on 15 April 1954. It acceded to Additional Protocols I and II of 1977 in 1982 and 1999, respectively. In the conduct of its external relations and domestic policy, Cuba has complied fully with those instruments and has invariably adhered to its obligations arising therefrom.

International efforts aimed at strengthening compliance with those instruments by States and other actors must be compatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and with the provisions of the instruments themselves.

In that regard, the exchange of experiences, best practices and lessons learned in the application of those instruments at the national level should be promoted. Similarly, programmes promoting international cooperation and the transfer of resources, technologies and know-how to developing countries should be encouraged in order to build national capacities for the dissemination and application of and compliance with international humanitarian law instruments.

Cuba notes with concern the ongoing serious violations of international humanitarian law instruments, particularly by highly developed countries, in the so-called fight against international terrorism and in military interventions against developing countries.

The failure to adhere to the principle of distinction in those contexts has caused thousands of civilians, mainly women, children and the elderly, to lose their lives or to sustain lifelong injuries. In a similar vein, civilian facilities and vital infrastructure, such as hospitals and schools, have been indiscriminately attacked with total impunity. Also of serious concern is the growing use of highly sophisticated armaments, in particular unmanned aircraft, which do not have the capacity to guarantee compliance with obligations under international humanitarian law.

Something else that must cease is the systematic practice of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of captured combatants and persons illegally detained in the fight against international terrorism, as it represents morally unacceptable behaviour for highly ethical military officers. That practice, which has been repeatedly denounced and condemned by the international community, violates not only international humanitarian law but also human rights and due process guarantees.

In addition, it is of concern that certain highly developed countries that are assuming a prominent role in the fight against international terrorism, that have participated in military interventions against third countries and that finance groups and mercenaries in internal armed conflicts, are not parties to Protocol II Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, adopted in 1977. That reveals a lack of true commitment and the application of double standards in the matter.

Cuba believes that the noble humanitarian ideal should not be sullied by being used as an excuse to violate the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, in particular the sovereignty of States, the right of peoples to self-determination, the right to territorial integrity and non-intervention in internal affairs, or as justification to formulate, finance and execute external agendas for regime change in developing countries.

El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]
[11 May 2016]

At the national level, in 1997 El Salvador established the Interagency Committee on International Humanitarian Law, which is an advisory body to the Government on measures for implementation and dissemination of international conventions on international humanitarian law, as well as national or international legal instruments in that area, in particular the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols of 1977.

During 2015 and 2016 the Interagency Committee carried out the following activities in the area of international humanitarian law:

- Training was provided to 643 members of the military through learning modules on the following topics: international humanitarian law; protective emblems; the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols; and the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and Additional Protocols. In addition, several more training programmes are planned for this year;
- A technical status report on the 43 cultural properties with protective emblems recognized at the national level was prepared;
- A reform of the section of the Penal Code regarding war crimes is being drafted.

In addition, one of the major advances in this area during the reporting period was the establishment of a national committee for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions adopted on the subject of women, peace and security. The Committee was established by Executive Order No. 74 in 2014. Its main purpose is to propose policies and norms to ensure compliance with resolutions related to the topic of "women, peace and security" in the Republic of El Salvador. Among its functions, it promotes the increased representation of women at all levels of decision-making in national, regional and international institutions and in mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution.

The Committee structure includes representatives of 17 government, academic and civil society organizations. Its members were sworn in on 12 November 2014 and have already undertaken various activities, including the development of a road map that will result in a plan of action to ensure compliance with the various resolutions.

All the activities reflect the support of the Republic of El Salvador for resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions, as well as its commitment to its various obligations arising from the norms of international humanitarian law.

Greece

[Original: English]
[30 June 2016]

Further to the information provided by Greece in earlier years on the issue of the status of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts (see A/67/182), Greece submits the following information in relation to international conventions concerning or relating to international humanitarian law, which Greece ratified during the period from 1 June 2014 to 1 June 2016:

- The International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance, by virtue of Law 4268/2014 (Official Gazette, vol. A'141, 27 June 2014);
- The Protocol on the Explosive Remnants of War to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons

Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (Protocol V), by virtue of Law 4288/2014 (Official Gazette, vol. A'199, 24 September 2014);

- The Arms Trade Treaty, by virtue of Law 4365/2016 (Official Gazette, vol. A'16, 12 February 2016).

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[20 April 2016]

Lebanon acceded to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts on 23 July 1997.

Lebanon ratified the Hague Convention of 1954 and the first protocol thereto on 1 June 1960, and is in the process of ratifying the second protocol to the Convention adopted in 1999.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict is in the process of being ratified.

With respect to measures relating to international humanitarian law, a national committee on international humanitarian law was established on 26 October 2011.

Lithuania

[Original: English]
[31 May 2016]

1. Legal background

The Republic of Lithuania has adopted a monistic approach towards the implementation of international conventions in its national legal system. Article 135 of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania provides that Lithuania, in implementing its foreign policy, shall follow the universally recognized principles and norms of international law. In accordance with the article 138 of the Constitution, international treaties ratified by the Seimas (parliament) of the Republic of Lithuania shall be a constituent part of the national legal system.

The commitment to abide by the treaties that have entered into force is reinforced in the Law on Treaties. Moreover, the Law on Treaties establishes the prevailing character of ratified international treaties over national laws in cases of inconsistency. Those provisions ensure the most favourable conditions for the implementation of international humanitarian law.

The Republic of Lithuania is a State party to all major instruments of international humanitarian law, including all four Geneva Conventions and the 1977 and 2005 Additional Protocols to the Conventions (ratified accordingly in 2000 and 2007). Also, the Republic of Lithuania is a State party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (ratified in 2003).

2. International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission

By ratifying the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, the Republic of Lithuania declared that it recognized, ipso facto and without special agreement, the competence of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission according to article 90 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions.

In 2011, at the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties, the Lithuanian representative, Justinas Žilinskas, law professor of Mykolas Romeris University, was elected and is a current member of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission.

3. Lithuanian national Commission on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law

The Ministry of National Defence is responsible for the coordination of the implementation of international humanitarian law within the State.

The Commission on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law was established in 2001 as an advisory body to the Minister for National Defence. According to the regulations of the Commission, its principal task is to provide assistance in performing the function of the Ministry with regard to the coordination of the national implementation of international humanitarian law. Despite the fact that the Commission functions under the auspices of the Ministry of Defence, it is an interministerial coordinating body composed of representatives from the National Defence System, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of the Interior, the European Law Department under the Ministry of Justice, the Lithuanian Red Cross Society, the Lithuanian National Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and leading universities.

The mandate of the Commission is quite extensive. The objectives of the Commission are as follows:

- To carry out an analysis of the situation regarding the implementation of the international humanitarian law in Lithuania and its participation in multilateral international agreements, including joining the agreements, implementing the provisions of those agreements, disseminating documents on international humanitarian law, teaching international humanitarian law within military and civil training institutions and investigating violations and their prevention;
- To submit proposals on the implementation of international humanitarian law to the leadership of the Ministry of Defence and the armed forces and to other institutions which do not belong to the National Defence System;
- To disseminate information on international humanitarian law within militaries and society by initiating translations of international humanitarian law documents into the Lithuanian language and publishing them or placing them on the website of the Ministry of Defence;
- To initiate or provide assistance in arranging courses, workshops, seminars or conferences on issues regarding the implementation of international humanitarian law.

4. Implementation measures

The set of implementation measures was taken after accession to the international instruments of international humanitarian law, including the implementation measures of the Additional Protocols relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts.

Methods and means of warfare

The Republic of Lithuania recognizes and respects the basic rules enshrined in article 35 of Additional Protocol I and the general principle that in any armed conflict, the right of the parties to the conflict to choose methods or means of warfare is not unlimited.

The Republic of Lithuania is a State party to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, 1980, as well as to all its Protocols and the Amendment to article 1.

The Republic of Lithuania has long been active in promoting the development, implementation and universalization of the Convention. From 2006 to 2015 it chaired several meetings and served as a coordinator for different programmes. Seeking to implement provisions of Protocol V to the Convention, a programme for the clearance and prevention of explosive remnants of war was approved by the Government in 2007 for the years 2007-2020 (in 2013 it was amended to assign more functions to the Fire and Rescue Department under the Ministry of the Interior). Lithuania is a mine-free country and no specific mine-clearance programmes are required; however, there is a certain degree of contamination by explosive remnants of war left from the First and Second World Wars as well as from Soviet occupation. Marking and clearance activities started in summer 2008. Up to the end of 2015, the Lithuanian Armed Forces Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company had checked and cleaned more than 779 hectares of polluted territory and found more than 14,900 pieces of different explosive ordnance (including anti-vehicle and anti-personnel mines, mortars, shells, grenades, cluster munitions, aviation bombs and ammunition).

Measures to protect the distinctive emblems

In 2007, the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania ratified Additional Protocol III to the Geneva Conventions. Subsequently, all necessary amendments of related national legislation were adopted in order to fully implement Additional Protocol III (amendments to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania, Code of Administrative Offences of the Republic of Lithuania and the Law on the Lithuanian Red Cross Society, the emblem and designation of the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Crystal).

The legislation protects all three distinctive emblems, regulates the protective use and the indicative use of the distinctive emblems as well as provides sanctions in cases of violation.

In 2011, the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania was amended in order to delimit and distinguish between international humanitarian law-protected emblems and names from other universally recognized emblems, and names that may be used for a commercial or industrial purpose.

Also, practical measures to protect the emblems are taken by the Lithuanian Red Cross Society. Violators are contacted and informed about the provisions of the laws and the sanctions. Law enforcement institutions are also informed about the gravest trespassers. If such measures prove to be inefficient, the cases are referred to the police for legal procedures. During 2014 and 2015, four private entities were contacted and informed about the provisions of the laws and the sanctions regarding the use of the emblem and were warned about the protections in place for the illegal use of the Red Cross emblem. All those cases were solved by peaceful agreements without resorting to police procedures.

The Lithuanian Red Cross Society also continues to spread information about the functions and proper use of the distinctive signs (lectures and information campaigns for medical personnel, journalists, students, etc.).

Protection of cultural objects

The Republic of Lithuania is a State party to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its Protocols. From 2005 to 2011, the Republic of Lithuania was a member of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

On the initiative of the Commission on Implementation of International Humanitarian Law, in 2004 a position of Desk Officer for the protection of cultural heritage was established in the Lithuanian Armed Forces. The main task of this specialist is to coordinate and ensure the implementation of the Convention in the National Defence System.

Nineteen immovable cultural heritage objects (buildings in Lithuania) are marked with the distinctive emblem of the 1954 Hague Convention, in accordance with Chapter V of the Convention.

In December 2011, at the meeting of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, enhanced protection was granted for the Kernavė archaeological site (Cultural Reserve of Kernavė) in Lithuania.

Legal advisers in the armed forces

Seeking to implement article 82 of Additional Protocol I of the Geneva Conventions, the National Concept of Legal Advisers in Armed Forces was approved in 2006 by the order of the Minister of National Defence. It determines the status of legal advisers in the armed forces and their functions, liability and rotations in military operations and training issues. A list of military legal advisers was approved in 2008 by the order of the Commander of the Armed Forces.

Dissemination

The Commission on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law collects information regarding education and advises on the inclusion of international humanitarian law subjects in educational programmes. The subject of international humanitarian law is included in education programmes at all levels of military personnel, and in the curricula of education of police personnel, secondary schools and so on.

The Ministry of National Defence and the Lithuanian Armed Forces provide international humanitarian law and international human rights law training to military personnel assigned to participate in international operations. The subject of international humanitarian law is also included in the curriculum of the Military Academy of Lithuania, the Division General Stasys Raštikis Lithuanian Armed Forces School and the General Adolfas Ramanauskas Combat Training Centre. The training of personnel is done through career courses, seminars and workshops on international law and international humanitarian law.

Lithuania takes part in the process of the standardization of training of the law of armed conflict for military personnel of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries. In 2013 it approved and implemented NATO standardization agreement STANAG 2449 (ed.2) (NATO allied training publication ATrainP-2 (Edition A Version 1) "Training in the law of armed conflict").

Lithuania also sends its military and civilian personnel to international courses on international humanitarian law.

International humanitarian law is either a compulsory or optional course in the law faculties of the leading universities as well as at the Institute of International Relations and Political Science.

As of March 2016, a new distance-learning military training course for soldiers is available on the law of armed conflict, which can be accessed through the course system (https://adl.kam.lt).

The Commission on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law has a website within the website of the Ministry of National Defence (www.kam.lt) where it publishes information about the Commission's activities and the texts of all the international humanitarian law treaties to which the Republic of Lithuania is a State party (in Lithuanian). Moreover, various issues concerning international cooperation in that field are presented and described.

In 2010, a handbook for commanders on the principles and rules of international humanitarian law was approved and published.

The Lithuanian Red Cross Society is actively involved in the dissemination of the principles of international humanitarian law within the local population. The Society continually introduces fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to the public, disseminates international humanitarian law, encourages humanitarian initiatives and protects the three emblems of the Movement.

During 2014 and 2015, two training sessions were organized involving Lithuanian Red Cross lecturers and representatives of civil-military cooperation. The training focused on the use of emblems and the basic rules of international humanitarian law. Five seminars were organized in Lithuanian universities in Kaunas, Vilnius, Klaipėda and Šiauliai, focusing on the humanitarian Red Cross principles as well as the use of the emblem in times of war and peace. To mark the 150th anniversary of the Red Cross Movement, the Society introduced to the public a book about Lithuanian Red Cross activities from the Society's establishment in 1919 to 1989. The Lithuanian postal service published a special envelope with a stamp on that occasion.

Repression of breaches of international humanitarian law

The Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania, the Administrative Offences Code of the Republic of Lithuania and the Statute on Military Discipline impose, respectively, the criminal, administrative or disciplinary liability for breaches of the rules of international humanitarian law, in particular grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, as well as other customary war crimes.

Military commanders are obliged to abide by the rules of international humanitarian law as well as to ensure compliance of the members of the armed forces under their command and other persons under their control.

In 2003, after ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania was amended accordingly to harmonize with the Convention (the age for child participation in hostilities was limited to 18 years old).

The implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court was fully completed after the ratification of the Rome Statute in 2003 and of the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court in 2004. In 2011, the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania was amended in order to harmonize it with the Rome Statute and the Geneva Conventions and Protocols. The amendment filled identified legal gaps. For example, it set a legal basis to prosecute criminal offences committed during non-international armed conflict and defined the responsibility of commanders for criminal offences committed by their subordinates, etc. In 2014, the Criminal Code was amended in order to implement the provisions of the United Nations International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance signed on 6 February 2007 in Paris.

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[20 February 2015]

The State of Qatar is a party to most of the principal conventions on international humanitarian law and other relevant instruments, including the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts, and 1977 Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, as well as the declaration in article 90 of the Additional Protocol I, relating to the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission.

The four Geneva Conventions and the two Additional Protocols represent a solid foundation of rules and principles that must continue to be applied during armed conflicts. However, ICRC has drawn attention on numerous occasions, especially within the framework of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, to serious challenges facing international humanitarian law.

The State of Qatar is of the view that these challenges, chief among them being the failure to comply with international humanitarian law, have resulted in destructive acts against civilians, the forced deportation of populations, destruction of infrastructure essential to the livelihood of civilian populations and use of starvation and blockade to achieve military gains on the ground. That has caused

military conflicts to become more complex and made the achievement of lasting peace settlements more difficult.

The State of Qatar is of the view that the response to the serious and growing challenges to international humanitarian law requires States to fulfil the undertaking stipulated in common article 1 of the four Geneva Conventions to respect and ensure respect for the provisions of the Conventions, applying that to all international and non-international armed conflicts without double standards. However, the main problem continues to be the lack of political will on the part of States to assume the responsibility of exercising their influence to avoid violations of international humanitarian law, and the support, assistance or encouragement given to other States to commit acts that are illegal under international law. That position has encouraged certain parties to commit war crimes and crimes against humanity, in the conviction that the international community lacks the capacity to condemn or impose sanctions against them. Indeed, they are expert in the use of internationally outlawed weapons, such as poison gas, which they use freely as they see fit, without paying any regard to international humanitarian law.

International humanitarian law, including the two Additional Protocols, is still generally applicable to contemporary armed conflict and it has demonstrated flexibility in the past. Now, however, it needs to be developed, taking into account the new realities of war, and States both great and small must abide by it. All parties to the conventions of international humanitarian law should implement the action plan adopted by the thirty-first International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent for the implementation of international humanitarian law and declare their agreement to the provisions of article 90 of the Additional Protocol I, relating to the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission, in order to accord it a global stamp.

The State of Qatar is keen to respect and apply the provisions of the aforementioned Conventions and the principles of international humanitarian law in all relevant fields, in implementation whereof:

- The Qatari Armed Forces have established a committee on international humanitarian law. The committee includes representatives of all the armed forces and seeks to strengthen implementation of the principles of international humanitarian law and disseminate the culture of international humanitarian law among all its members through its local office and in coordination with dedicated associations and organizations;
- In coordination with the International Committee of the Red Crescent (Regional Centre, Kuwait), the Qatari Armed Forces held a course and workshop attended by the relevant military and civilian bodies, within the framework of the endeavour to disseminate the culture of international humanitarian law and relevant conventions;
- International humanitarian law is taught as a curriculum subject at Ahmed bin Muhammad Military College within the academic programme;
- The military committee on international humanitarian law is developing training programmes and courses to be taught to officers and other ranks in the armed forces training institutes as a compulsory subject;

- The Department of Legal Affairs of the Qatari Armed Forces has issued a special publication containing the basic provisions of international humanitarian law to be taught as an academic course. It includes the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and two Additional Protocols.

Pursuant to Cabinet decree No. 27 (2012), the National Committee on International Humanitarian Law was established, with its membership drawn from relevant Qatari bodies. The Committee seeks to enshrine the principles of international humanitarian law, work towards achieving the goals of the relevant international conventions and charters, foster international collaboration in that field and instruct and ensure respect for those principles at the national level.

[Original: Arabic]
[31 May 2016]

I. Accession to international instruments on international humanitarian law

The State of Qatar is a party to following international instruments:

1. The 1925 Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare;
2. The Geneva Conventions of 1949;
3. The 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict;
4. The 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction;
5. The two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1977;
6. The State of Qatar has accepted the jurisdiction of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission established under to the provisions of Additional Protocol I of 8 June 1977;
7. The 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects;
8. The 1980 Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I);
9. The 1980 Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III);
10. The 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child;
11. The 1992 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction;
12. The 1995 Additional Protocol to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (Protocol IV, entitled Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons);

13. The 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction;

14. The 1999 Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict;

15. The 2000 Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict;

16. The 2003 Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (Protocol V).

II. National legislation

Qatari legislation contains provisions related to the national implementation of international humanitarian law, including the following:

- A provision on judicial guarantees appears in more than one piece of legislation, most notably the Permanent Constitution of the State of Qatar (2004), Law No. 10 of 2003 on the judiciary, Law No. 10 of 2002 on the office of the public prosecutor, the Penal Code (Law No. 11 of 2004) and the Code of Criminal Procedure (Law No. 23 of 2004);

- Qatari legislation regulates the use of the Red Crescent emblem in Ministerial Decision No. 2 of 1981, which approves the Qatari Red Crescent's amended memorandum of association and statute;

- Law No. 9 of 2002 on trademarks, trade names, geographical indications and industrial designs protects the emblems of the Red Crescent and the Red Cross from reproduction by prohibiting their registration as trademarks and by prohibiting the registration of trademarks that contain symbols that are identical or similar to those of the Red Crescent or Red Cross. Such actions constitute a punishable offence;

- With respect to the prohibition on the participation in military operations by persons under the age of 18, Qatari Law No. 21 of 2006 on military service stipulates that persons under the age of 18 may not be appointed to a military rank. In addition, Law No. 5 of 2014 on national service prohibits persons under the age of 18 from being recruited into military service;

- In implementation of the 1992 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, the State of Qatar enacted Law No. 16 of 2013 on chemical weapons, which lists prohibited acts and the sanctions imposed on those who commit them, which conform with and implement the Chemical Weapons Convention at the national level;

- The Secretariat of the Cabinet is currently considering a draft military justice law that provides for war crimes and associated penalties;

- The Secretariat of the Cabinet is considering a draft law on biological weapons (currently at the final stage of the legislative process). The draft provides for

acts prohibited under the Biological Weapons Convention and the penalties imposed on perpetrators.

III. National committees as mechanisms for the national implementation of international humanitarian law

National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons

In order to implement the Chemical Weapons Convention, the State of Qatar established the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons pursuant to Cabinet Decision No. 26 (2004). The Committee was created under the Ministry of Defence and is composed of two representatives of the Ministry of Defence, who serve as the Committee's Chair and Vice-Chair, as well as one representative each from the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Energy and Industry, Municipal Affairs and Agriculture; the National Health Authority; the Supreme Council for the Environment and Nature Preserves; the Secretariat of the Cabinet; the Hamad Medical Corporation; and the General Custom Authority. Each agency chooses its own representative to the Committee, and the names of the Chair, the Vice-Chair and the members are contained in a decision from the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, according to article 1 of the Decision establishing the Committee.

Article 4 of the Decision establishing the Committee charges it with the following authorities:

1. It advises the competent government committees on issues related to the prohibition of weapons of all types, including nuclear, biological, toxin, chemical and conventional weapons;
2. It studies the drafts of international weapons-ban instruments and states its opinion on the advisability of acceding to such instruments;
3. It works towards the goals of international weapons-ban instruments which the State has joined or ratified;
4. It proposes legislation and procedures for implementing international weapons-ban instruments;
5. It reviews national legislation on illegal weapons trafficking and proposes improvements and amendments.

Military Committee on International Humanitarian Law

In 2009, the State of Qatar, represented by the Qatari Armed Forces, established the Military Committee on International Humanitarian Law. The Committee disseminates information on the provisions of international humanitarian law among the armed forces, as they are one of the key bodies affected by such provisions.

National Committee on International Humanitarian Law

The National Committee on International Humanitarian Law was established pursuant to Cabinet Decision No. 27 of 2012, thus becoming the national mechanism for the implementation of international humanitarian law.

The Committee is headquartered at the Ministry of Justice and is chaired by the Deputy Minister of Justice. Its members include representatives of agencies involved in implementing international humanitarian law, including the ministries of

Defence, Interior, Foreign Affairs, Justice, Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs, Education and Higher Education, and Public Health, as well as the Shura Council, Qatar University, the Qatar Social Work Foundation and the Qatar Red Crescent Society.

IV. Awareness and dissemination of international humanitarian law

Centre for Legal and Judicial Studies at the Ministry of Justice

International humanitarian law is taught to legal staff as a part of compulsory training courses organized by the Centre for Legal and Judicial Studies at the Ministry of Justice.

Qatar University

At the university level, international humanitarian law was offered as an optional subject in English at the College of Law at Qatar University between 2010 and 2015. Efforts are under way to reintroduce the subject.

The class focused on the concept of international humanitarian law and its role in protecting prisoners of war, civilians, aid workers, cultural property, women and children. The class examined the main instruments of international humanitarian law, such as the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols of 1977 and the Hague Conventions. The class also examined the application of international humanitarian law and explained the concepts of war crimes and serious violations.

Ahmed Bin Mohammed Military College

International humanitarian law was offered to students at the College of Law as part of the requirements for an optional specialization, with nine hours of classroom instruction.

Work of the Qatar Red Crescent Society with students

The Qatar Red Crescent Society has contributed to the inclusion of humanitarian concepts in elementary school curricula, with basic humanitarian concepts taught as part of the sixth- and eighth-grade social sciences curriculum. The subjects being taught include the type of volunteer and community work done by the Qatar Red Crescent Society and the humanitarian concepts contained in the instruction given by the Caliph Abu Bakr to Muslim soldiers prior to the conquest of Syria in the year A.H. 12.

The Qatar Red Crescent Society has conducted activities to raise awareness of international humanitarian law in elementary, preparatory and secondary schools. In 2015, for example, some 200 independent and private schools took part in a project known as "School Crescent", which consisted of six activities, including one on awareness of international humanitarian law. Through the beginning of February 2016, the Qatar Red Crescent Society had received 41 requests from government and private schools regarding the awareness-raising curriculum.

The Qatar Red Crescent Society has worked hard to promote international humanitarian law through joint publications with other parties:

- It publishes a "humanitarian culture" series that addresses various humanitarian issues;

- The magazine *Wasiyah*, or "Testament", is published by the Qatar Red Cross in cooperation with the Islamic Forum on International Humanitarian Law, which is a specialized agency of the Islamic Committee of the International Crescent. The title is a reference to the instructions given by the Prophet Muhammad and his Caliph Abu Bakr to Muslim generals before sending them into battle. The editor-in-chief of the magazine is the head of the international relations and international humanitarian law division of the Qatar Red Crescent Society;

- Pursuant to a proposal submitted by the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Qatar Red Crescent Society and member of the Islamic Committee of the International Crescent, 9 May has been declared National International Humanitarian Law Day in the Islamic world. The proposal was approved by the Islamic Committee of the International Crescent during its thirtieth session. The Qatari proposal was for the member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to observe a national day honouring international humanitarian law. The date was chosen to commemorate the instructions given by the Caliph Abu Bakr to the Muslim general Usama bin Zayd before the latter set out to wage war against Byzantium in A.D. 634. That was the first time in history that instructions were given to troops about humanitarian behaviour in time of war. Subsequently, the forty-second session of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, held in Kuwait in May 2015, adopted a resolution approving 9 May as International Day of International Humanitarian Law and the Islamic Sharia.

Military Committee on International Humanitarian Law

(a) Legal basis for the Committee

The Military Committee on International Humanitarian Law was established by decision of the Commander-in-Chief of the Qatari Armed Forces in order to keep up with the latest legal developments and in accordance with commitments contained in international conventions and protocols signed and ratified by Qatar. The Committee is concerned with implementing aspects of international humanitarian law as they relate to the activities of the Qatari Armed Forces in times of armed conflict and in the course of taking part in international or regional peacekeeping forces in regional or international armed conflicts. The Committee was established before Qatar had established the National Committee for International Humanitarian Law.

(b) Date of establishment

The Committee was established on 3 June 2009.

(c) Structure of the Committee

The Committee consists of a chair and six members representing the branches of the Qatari Armed Forces.

(d) Authorities of the Committee

The Committee is charged with the following:

(a) It provides advice on international humanitarian legal issues to the commanders of the armed forces;

(b) It promotes and enforces the provisions of international humanitarian law within the armed forces;

(c) It formulates educational and training plans and programmes to disseminate and develop a culture of international humanitarian law within the armed forces;

(d) It coordinates with associations and organizations that specialize in international humanitarian law;

(e) It follows up any observations that arise with respect to international humanitarian law and takes action to resolve or respond to them;

(f) It trains instructors in international humanitarian law in coordination with the regional delegation of ICRC to the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf;

(g) It represents the Qatari Armed Forces at meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops on international humanitarian law at home and abroad.

(e) What the Committee has done to promote and enforce international human rights law within the Qatari Armed Forces

(a) In coordination with ICRC, the following training courses were held in Qatar:

(i) A 2009 training course for instructors in international humanitarian law;

(ii) A 2011 training course on the provisions of international humanitarian law;

(iii) A 2014 regional symposium on international humanitarian law for senior military operations officers and legal officers in the armed forces of member States of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.

(b) In 2012, the Committee signed a memorandum of understanding with the Qatar Red Crescent Society on cooperation in international humanitarian law.

(c) The Committee's publications included a pamphlet entitled "Overview of the law of armed conflict", distributed by the Directorate of Legal Affairs of the Qatari Armed Forces to disseminate a culture of legal awareness among members of the armed forces;

(d) The Committee has attended the following international events:

(i) Annual round tables held by the Institute of International Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy;

(ii) Courses held by the Institute of International Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy;

(iii) Courses in international humanitarian law held by the League of Arab States in Cairo;

(iv) The annual Arab training courses in international humanitarian law in Lebanon;

(v) Courses in international humanitarian law held in Turkey by the Peace Institute of the Turkish Armed Forces.

Slovenia

[Original: English]
[17 October 2014]

The Republic of Slovenia has been placing relevant emphasis on the respect and implementation of international humanitarian law ever since the country's independence in 1991 and its subsequent international recognition and United Nations membership in 1992.

Since 1992, the Republic of Slovenia has become a party to all the key conventions and other international humanitarian law instruments and has adopted a number of national regulations which needed to be harmonized with international humanitarian law instruments ratified by Slovenia.

During this period, the Republic of Slovenia has been implementing organizational and institutional adaptations of its authorities and institutions, thus enabling them to carry out relevant tasks and honour their commitments. It has also endeavoured to continuously and systematically disseminate knowledge in the field of international humanitarian law. During the period 1992-2012, an interministerial commission on international humanitarian law, established by the Slovenian Government, steered the activities aimed at fulfilling Slovenia's international humanitarian law commitments.

In accordance with the letter of the Secretary-General dated 5 March 2014 and General Assembly resolution 67/93 of 14 December 2012, the present report focuses on the relevant tasks and activities that were carried out after the fifth national report to the Assembly in June 2012.

Ratification of significant international humanitarian law instruments

After joining the United Nations, the Republic of Slovenia, through the notification of succession, became party to international humanitarian law instruments ratified by the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Between 1992 and 2010, the country ratified all key international humanitarian law instruments (35 in total).

Since its previous periodic report in June 2012, the Republic of Slovenia, on 2 April 2014, has deposited its instrument of ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty.

On 25 September 2013, the Republic of Slovenia deposited its instrument of ratification of the Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, adopted at the Kampala conference.

Education, training and dissemination of knowledge in the field of international humanitarian law

The Ministry of Defence organized a number of courses for Slovenian participants in international peace operations within the framework of the Civil-

Military Cooperation Functional Specialist Course. All members of the Slovenian Armed Forces taking part in international peace operations attended special courses on international humanitarian law, nature and cultural heritage protection and religion and customs in international peace support operations and other crisis response operations.

Furthermore, all members of the Slovenian military attended training sessions in communication and relationship skills for dealing with stressful situations in crisis areas.

The Republic of Slovenia attaches particular attention to the training of police officers and their knowledge of the Geneva Conventions. All police officers taking part in international peace operations and missions are required to attend a special international humanitarian law seminar. Other members of the police force are acquainted with the basic principles of international humanitarian law and supplied with a booklet on international humanitarian standards governing the use of force, which also refers to human rights.

The country has been participating in an ICRC project entitled "Exploring Humanitarian Law" based on a memorandum between the Ministry of Education and Sport and ICRC of 2006. "Exploring Humanitarian Law" is an international educational programme for students aged 13 to 18. It is composed of a series of research pieces which are aimed at improving the understanding of humanitarian issues connected to conflict situations. The exploration of humanitarian law encourages young people to understand armed conflict in the broader sense, its consequences, the rules that apply in armed conflicts and the responsibilities borne by the individual. It particularly encourages young people to engage in actions of humanity and solidarity in everyday life. The exploration of humanitarian law promotes the values of humanity, solidarity, equity and responsibility.

The National Education Institute, in collaboration with the Slovenian Red Cross, the Interministerial Commission on International Humanitarian Law and teachers, re-edited a Slovenian version of a methodological teacher's handbook, entitled "Exploring Humanitarian Law", which was also published in an electronic version. It is designed to help teachers explain the fundamental concepts of international humanitarian law and build awareness about the rules to be respected in a state of war.

International humanitarian law issues are also part of the curricula of secondary health-care schools, law faculties and of the Faculty of Social Sciences in Ljubljana.

The students of the Faculty of Law of the University of Ljubljana continue to regularly attend a one-week regional course on international humanitarian law organized annually in Belgrade. They have also taken part in international student moot courts, which place an ever-greater emphasis on international humanitarian law issues.

In 2013, the Faculty of Law of the University of Ljubljana (conference Chair: Vasilka Sancin) started a series of biannual international scientific conferences with the aim to provide an opportunity for scholars and practitioners from a range of disciplines (legal, political science, military and security studies, etc.) to engage in an interdisciplinary academic debate on the concept of "Responsibility to Protect" (R2P). At the first conference in 2013, more than 90 internationally renowned

experts from around the world presented their positions, thoughts and research work on the issue. The introductory lecture was given by Adama Dieng, Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, while Edward Luck, former Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Responsibility to Protect, gave the keynote address.

In 2013, Dr. Sancin was awarded a NATO grant as co-director of the advanced training course entitled "NATO Regional Summer School on Cyber Defence", which took place in FYROM [the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia] in October 2013, and where significant emphasis was placed on the applicability of international humanitarian law in the context of cyber defence.

The Slovenian Red Cross carried out a project for promoting knowledge on international humanitarian law for members of the Red Cross societies.

Promoting compliance with international humanitarian law

During the period 2012-2014, Slovenia continued to pay special attention to the issue of children and armed conflict. It raised this issue in its statements in different multilateral forums. In this period, Slovenia took part in the Security Council open debate on children and armed conflict, and co-sponsored Council resolution 2068 (2012) on children and armed conflict. Slovenia is an active member of the Group of Friends of Children and Armed Conflict that supports the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. The situation of children affected by armed conflict in general and in some concerned countries has been raised by Slovenia in its national capacity and joint statements with other countries in the Human Rights Council, including in the universal periodic review.

Since 2012, Slovenia has been one of the initiators of the discussion on the issue of children and armed conflict in NATO.

Slovenia has been a staunch supporter of the Arms Trade Treaty from the very beginning. Slovenia was involved in the preparation of the Treaty, and took part in all phases of the long negotiation process.

Slovenia voted in favour of the General Assembly adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty on 2 April 2013, and was among the first States that signed the Arms Trade Treaty in June 2013 in New York. The Government of the Republic of Slovenia launched the ratification process immediately after its signature. The National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Act on Ratification on 27 November 2013. The Act on Ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty was signed by the President of the Republic and published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia on 16 December 2013. Finally, together with 16 other States members of the European Union, Slovenia deposited its instrument of ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty with the Secretary-General on 2 April 2014, on the first anniversary of the adoption of the treaty.

Slovenia is aware that the Arms Trade Treaty is not a typical international humanitarian law instrument. It is an instrument that sets the mechanism to regulate international trade in conventional arms by applying certain criteria for allowing the international transfers of arms. However, respect for international humanitarian law is one of the criteria, as specified by articles 6 and 7 of the Treaty. Slovenia believes

that the Treaty is an international humanitarian law-related international instrument that when fully implemented will have significant humanitarian consequences.

Slovenia also advocates for compliance with international humanitarian law in the context of its activities promoting the rule of law and the prevention of impunity for grave crimes of international concern. Promotion of justice and the rule of law, in particular the activities of the International Criminal Court and the endeavours to stop mass atrocities through the "Responsibility to Protect" approach, remain among our key foreign policy priorities.

In cooperation with Liechtenstein and the Global Institute for the Prevention of Aggression, Slovenia hosted a regional seminar on the ratification and implementation of the Amendments to the Rome Statute, aimed at the States of the Eastern European Group (15 and 16 May 2014, Brdo). The purpose of the seminar was to recall the historic importance of the Amendments to the Rome Statute on the crime of aggression and war crimes, adopted in Kampala in June 2010, and to encourage States to ratify and implement them. Slovenia was the second State to have both ratified and implemented the Kampala Amendments. The eminent speakers included Slovenian Foreign Minister Karl Erjavec; then-President of the International Criminal Court Judge Sang-Hyun Song; Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs Miguel de Serpa Soares; President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute Ambassador Tiina Intelmann; and Slovenian constitutional judge and member of the International Law Commission Professor Ernest Petric. A video message was delivered by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Participants were also greeted through videoconference by Benjamin B. Ferencz, former chief prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials. In addition, several leading experts, academics and civil society representatives spoke at the seminar. The seminar also aimed at promoting the universality of the International Criminal Court.

The fight against impunity and promotion of the work of the International Criminal Court was also a theme of the panel dedicated to the Court at our 2013 Bled Strategic Forum, attended by Court prosecutor Fatou Bensouda and the President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute, Tina Intelmann, among others.

Another important concept related to the respect of the rule of law is the responsibility to protect. In April 2013, Slovenia hosted the first Regional R2P National Focal Points Meeting for Europe, and planned to host another R2P meeting in 2015, in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide and the tenth anniversary of the 2005 World Summit document that endorsed the R2P concept.

Prevention and prosecution of international humanitarian law breaches are also strongly connected with adequate internal capacities and functioning inter-State cooperation. Having recognized a legal gap, in particular regarding inter-State cooperation with respect to the prosecution of the most serious international crimes, Slovenia will continue to work together with the Netherlands, Belgium and Argentina on the initiative for a treaty on mutual legal assistance and extradition between States.

Slovenia has fully sustained the Montreux Document and carried out the tasks in line with its objectives. The Government of the Republic of Slovenia endorsed the Montreux Document on 19 July 2012.

Interministerial Commission on International Humanitarian Law

The Interministerial Commission on International Humanitarian Law was re-established by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on 27 March 2014. The task of the Commission is monitoring, initiating, harmonizing and managing activities for the implementation of Slovenia's commitments in the field of international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols of 1977, as well as the dissemination of international humanitarian law knowledge at the national level. With respect to relevant international humanitarian law treaties to which Slovenia is not a State party, the Commission proposes their ratification and incorporation in national legislation to competent ministries.

In 2014, the Interministerial Commission on International Humanitarian Law was composed of the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (the Commission's headquarters); the Ministry of Defence (including the Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief); the Ministry of the Interior; the Ministry of Culture; the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport; the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities; the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology; the Ministry of Infrastructure and Spatial Planning; the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Justice; the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment; the Slovenian Red Cross; the National Education Institute; and the Faculty of Law of the Ljubljana University. In 2014, it was headed by Andrej Grasselli, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

[Original: English]
[1 June 2016]

International humanitarian law education

Training of Slovenian troops and police officers deployed in missions abroad was carried out.

Dissemination of knowledge in the field of international humanitarian law

The Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the Protocol thereto, signed at The Hague on 14 May 1954, are fundamental treaties on international humanitarian law. Slovenia succeeded to them in 1992. Since the text of the Convention and Protocol in the International Law Series of the Official Gazette of the FPRY [Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia] was published in Serbo-Croatian, the Permanent Coordination Group for International Humanitarian Law prepared the official Slovene translations. In accordance with article 26 of the Convention, on 17 February 2016, the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Paris submitted the official translation of the Convention and its Protocol to UNESCO.

In 2015, the Permanent Coordination Group for International Humanitarian Law established a subgroup tasked with issues relating to the implementation of the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. To mark the 60 years of the Convention, the subgroup will draft a publication entitled "The protection of cultural property during armed conflict".

The four 1949 Geneva Conventions, succeeded to by the Republic of Slovenia in 1992, were also published in Serbo-Croatian in the Gazette of the Presidium of

the People's Assembly of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia. Earlier this year, the expert group tasked with the verification of Slovene texts of international instruments published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia began preparing an official translation in the Slovene language. The expert group includes a translator, language editor, representatives of the ministries of Defence, Health and Justice and of the Slovenian Red Cross, two international law experts from the International Law Department at the Foreign Ministry, a representative of the Faculty of Law and external experts. The official translations are expected to be published next year in a dedicated volume of the International Law Series. The translation will be an important contribution to the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and serve as a guiding principle for the Slovenian Armed Forces and health personnel on missions abroad and for the work of State authorities and academia.

Promoting compliance with international humanitarian law

- World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, 16 May 2016

Slovenia has been promoting compliance with international humanitarian law within international events and summits. At the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016 in Istanbul, the Slovenian delegation, headed by Prime Minister Miroslav Cerar, supported the core commitments related to international humanitarian law and announced national commitments in this regard. Slovenia has pledged to continue its activities in relation to advocacy and the promotion of international humanitarian law at the national and global levels. In addition, Slovenia has committed to continue endeavours concerning the protection of civilians, where special attention will be given to the most vulnerable.

- Thirty-second International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference, Geneva, 8-10 December 2015

Slovenia has been fulfilling the pledges and resolutions of the thirty-first Conference and reporting accordingly. The Government of the Republic of Slovenia tasked the ministries to base their work on the guidelines from the thirty-second Conference.

At the thirty-second Conference in Geneva, the delegation of the Republic of Slovenia and the Red Cross made the following voluntary pledges:

- International Criminal Court (OPS32041);
- International humanitarian law instruments (OPS32040);
- Promotion and dissemination of international humanitarian law (OPS32039);
- Health care in danger: respecting and protecting health care (OPS32038);
- Sexual and gender-based violence during times of armed conflict or in the aftermath of disasters and other emergencies (OPS32037);
- Fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (OPS32036);
- Strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law (OPS32033);
- Strengthening international humanitarian law protecting persons deprived of their liberty (OPS32034).

Slovenian representatives were actively involved in drafting the joint pledges of European Union member States.

In this regard, the Permanent Coordination Group for International Humanitarian Law is preparing an action plan which will outline activities for implementing the pledges in the following five-year period.

Slovenia has upheld the Kigali Principles on the Protection of Civilians.

• Arms Trade Treaty

Slovenia has been a strong supporter of the Treaty from its inception. As a party to the Treaty, Slovenia provided the initial report at the end of 2015 and will continue the reporting process, which is a key element in the implementation of the Treaty and cooperation between States.

Slovenia advocates the universalization of the Arms Trade Treaty, and supports efforts aimed at reducing human casualties and suffering in the future by imposing stricter control on the arms trade and preventing arms from becoming accessible to non-state actors or terrorist groups.

• International Criminal Court

Slovenia also advocates compliance with international humanitarian law in the context of its activities promoting the rule of law and the prevention of impunity for grave crimes of international concern. The promotion of justice and the rule of law, particularly the activities of the International Criminal Court and the endeavours to stop mass atrocities through the Responsibility to Protect approach, remain among our key foreign policy priorities.

Accountability for atrocity crimes and the promotion of the work of the International Criminal Court were important themes of the conference "Rights for peace: challenges and opportunities" that took place in April 2015. The eminent speakers at the conference included Ms. Bensouda, Court prosecutor. The fight against impunity was also a theme of two panels at our 2015 Bled Strategic Forum, attended by Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, the President of the International Criminal Court, and Mr. Dieng, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, among others.

• Responsibility to protect (R2P)

For over a decade, Slovenia has supported the implementation of the United Nations R2P principle, which is a pillar of the country's foreign policy, enshrined in the declaration and strategy of Slovenia's foreign policy. As a member of the Group of Friends on R2P and via the national R2P focal point, Slovenia promotes discussion on responsible sovereignty, the prevention of international crimes and the practical implementation of these principles. A panel at the 2015 Bled Strategic Forum was dedicated to R2P, with the participation of Mr. Dieng, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide. During its membership of the Human Rights Council during the 2016-2018 period, Slovenia will draw attention to the R2P concept in general debates and thematic discussions of the Council, emphasizing the need for preventive action.

• Mutual legal assistance and extradition initiative

The prevention and prosecution of international humanitarian law breaches are also closely connected with adequate internal capacities and functioning inter-State cooperation. Having recognized a legal gap, particularly regarding inter-State cooperation with respect to the prosecution of the most serious international crimes, Slovenia will continue to work with the Netherlands, Belgium and Argentina on an initiative for a treaty on mutual legal assistance and extradition between States to ensure effective domestic investigation and the prosecution of atrocity crimes.

Children and armed conflict

Slovenia traditionally pays special attention to the issue of children and armed conflict. In the period under review, it raised the issue in its statements in various multilateral forums. It took part in the Security Council open debate on children and armed conflict and co-sponsored the latest Security Council resolution 2225 (2015) on children and armed conflict. Slovenia is an active member of the Group of Friends of Children and Armed Conflict, which supports the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict in New York and Geneva. The situation of children affected by armed conflict in general and in some concerned countries has been raised by Slovenia in its national capacity and in joint statements with other countries in the Human Rights Council, including in the universal periodic review. In April 2016, Slovenia endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration and therefore the Lucens Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict.

Sexual violence in conflict

At the 2015 Bled Strategic Forum, a panel was devoted to ending sexual violence in conflict. The panel, entitled "Evading sexual violence in conflict: one year after the Summit", built on the outcomes of the 2014 Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict. It took stock of the progress made and identified new and remaining gaps.

ITF Enhancing Human Security

Slovenia is fully committed to continuing mine action activities and conventional weapons destruction in South-East Europe and in other regions of the world, especially through the Slovenia-based ITF Enhancing Human Security organization, which has become a centre of excellence for regional cooperation on mine action and assistance for mine victims. Since its establishment by the Slovenian Government in 1998, ITF has always been among the Government's priorities. The Slovenian Government continues to support ITF politically, financially and with in-kind contributions.

With the assistance of ITF and its donors, Slovenia has responded to the needs of children affected by conflict in various regions. During the 2014-2016 reporting period, Slovenia contributed €1,438,000 to ITF.

Switzerland

[Original: French]
[2 June 2016]

Commitment to and promotion of the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions

Switzerland is a party to the three Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions and takes every opportunity at bilateral meetings to encourage States that have not yet done so to ratify the Additional Protocols.

On the basis of a consultation process open to all States party to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and in conjunction with the International Committee of the Red Cross, in December 2015 Switzerland submitted proposals to the thirty-second International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent for making progress towards the establishment of a forum of States on international humanitarian law. All States committed to participating in an intergovernmental process, facilitated jointly by Switzerland and ICRC, aimed at reaching agreement on the characteristics and functions of a future forum of States, and at finding ways to improve the implementation of international humanitarian law by harnessing the potential of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and regional forums. Switzerland remains committed to facilitating and promoting that intergovernmental process.

Switzerland was also actively involved in the World Humanitarian Summit, making a number of commitments related to international humanitarian law and co-chairing the high-level round table entitled "Upholding the norms that safeguard humanity".

Switzerland recently developed the Mine Action Strategy of the Swiss Confederation for 2016-2019, which was jointly prepared by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport. It sets out the tasks and challenges for Switzerland in the area of humanitarian demining, in particular with regard to anti-personnel landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war. Switzerland is also committed to promoting the ratification and full implementation of the relevant treaties.

Within the framework of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, Switzerland is actively involved in the processes of informal consultations with experts on lethal autonomous weapon systems. It is committed to formally strengthening the mandate of the meeting of experts on lethal autonomous weapon systems and will support the formal establishment of a group of governmental experts at the next Review Conference of the Convention. It calls for an approach that places the strict observance of international humanitarian law at the heart of discussions.

Switzerland is committed to the full and effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, which was ratified on 30 January 2015 and entered into force for Switzerland on 30 April 2015. When Switzerland deposited the instrument of ratification, it also attached an interpretative declaration explaining how it interpreted and applied several key provisions of the treaty, including articles 6

and 7. At the first Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty, Geneva was designated as the headquarters of the Treaty secretariat.

Switzerland is also committed to international criminal justice, in part through its support of the International Criminal Court. At the national level, on 10 September 2015, Switzerland ratified the amendments to the Rome Statute that were adopted in Kampala in 2010. They will enter into force for Switzerland on 10 September 2016. At the international level, it promotes strengthening and improving the functioning of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and of the Court itself. In April 2016, it organized a retreat aimed at supporting the Court in the development of performance indicators. Switzerland also promotes greater efficiency in Court procedures, and is an active member of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and of the Group of Friends of the International Criminal Court in New York, The Hague and Geneva. It facilitates the Assembly resolution on strengthening the International Criminal Court and the Assembly of States Parties (the "omnibus resolution") and, within the framework of the universal periodic review, it regularly calls on States not party to the Rome Statute to ratify that instrument.

Apart from its involvement in the promotion of the International Criminal Court, Switzerland has broad expertise on ways of dealing with past and preventing future atrocities. It thus advocates the criminal prosecution of violators of human rights and international humanitarian law, while supporting measures taken in the interest of victims, such as truth-seeking, reparations and measures to ensure non-recurrence. With regard to the prevention of atrocities, Switzerland launched the Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes initiative in conjunction with five other States, which aims to promote prevention at the national level by encouraging States to share their experiences in that area.

In December 2014, Switzerland and the International Committee of the Red Cross supported participating States of the Montreux Document on pertinent international legal obligations and good practices for States related to operations of private military and security companies during armed conflict in establishing the Montreux Document Forum. Secretariat services are provided by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces. The Forum serves as an informal consultation platform for Montreux Document participants. Its aim is to promote national implementation of the Montreux Document and development of the necessary tools to do so. The Forum will also urge more States to actively support the initiative. As of May 2016, 53 States and 3 international organizations (the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and NATO) had expressed support for the Montreux Document.[4]

The International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers' Association was established on 20 September 2013 in Geneva, and serves as the governance and oversight mechanism for the Code. Currently, 99 companies, 6 governments and 16 non-governmental organizations are members of the Association. The Board of Directors of the Association, which is chaired by Switzerland, is currently developing the procedures for monitoring and processing

[4] A list of participating States and international organizations of the Montreux document is available from https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/dfae/politique-exterieure/droit-international-public/droit-international-humanitaire/entreprises-militaires-securite-privees/etats-participant.html.

complaints provided for in the Code. Certification procedures were adopted by the General Assembly of the Association in October 2015. The secretariat and the Executive Director of the Association are based in Geneva.

In December 2014, Switzerland finalized new versions of two complementary handbooks. The instruments consist of a legal handbook intended to clarify legal issues related to humanitarian access in situations of armed conflict and a practical handbook for field personnel that presents methodologies, tools and practical advice aimed at proposing more effective operational responses for expeditious, unhindered and sustained humanitarian access.

Switzerland provides secretariat services for the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission and regularly encourages all States that have not yet recognized the competence of the Commission to do so. At the thirty-second International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Switzerland submitted an open pledge affirming support for the Commission and undertook to contribute to raising States' awareness of it. In addition, Switzerland organized a panel discussion for the Commission's annual meeting in February 2016; more than 80 States and organizations took part and the panellists explained the potential and competence of the Commission.

Turkey

[Original: English]
[10 June 2016]

Applicable international humanitarian law for Turkey

Turkey is a State party to the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

Turkey is not a State party to:

- The Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol I), 8 June 1977;
- The Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II), 8 June 1977.

Views on strengthening the existing body of international law

In view of the status of applicable international humanitarian law for Turkey, in order to strengthen international humanitarian law and disseminate information on international humanitarian law, Turkey deems carrying out the following efforts and measures to be important:

- Translating relevant agreements and rules on international humanitarian law, with a view to using them in education, especially education of members of armed forces in all ranks;
- Training of members of armed forces in all ranks;
- Training of legal counsels in armed forces;

- Ensuring that commanders possess knowledge of the content of the international agreements;
- Determining the level of compliance of warfare methods and tools with international humanitarian law and providing training in that regard;
- Taking necessary measures for the use of designated emblems;
- Taking necessary measures (e.g., training of staff, labelling) with regard to medical military vessels, aircraft and other vehicles;
- Taking necessary measures for the identification of military staff that are competent to carry out combat and may become prisoners of war.

In view of this, for compliance to international agreements, beginning from peacetime, it is important to train adequate numbers of trainers and benefit from trained personnel in planning and executing combat operations while examining these operations' legal aspects in addition to their technical/tactical ones.

Efforts in strengthening the existing body of international law

The Turkish Armed Forces and the Ministry of Defence carry out the following efforts in disseminating knowledge on international humanitarian law and training of members of armed forces in all ranks:

(a) A two-volume reference publication entitled *Law of Armed Conflict and Relevant International Legal Texts* has been prepared through translation of international humanitarian law texts in 2010. The publication has been distributed to Turkish Armed Forces units, relevant public institutions and research institutions, including universities and libraries;

(b) Office of the Legal Counsel of Chief of Staff personnel who are trained to become trainers on international humanitarian law offer regular annual conferences, seminars and courses in the Turkish war colleges and Turkish Armed Forces training institutions;

(c) Under the coordination of the Ministry of Defence, international humanitarian law-related subjects have been included in the training of military judge interns and the mid-career training of military judges;

(d) Enrolment opportunities in international training and courses on international humanitarian law, peace operations and military justice are included in the plans for staff education abroad. A significant number of staff in the military judge category are annually participating in such courses abroad;

(e) The Turkish Partnership for Peace Training Centre's biannual courses on international humanitarian law are organized for personnel, especially from Partnership for Peace and NATO member States;

(f) Following the introduction of the "Smart ID System", the relevant provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 have been taken into account in the identification cards of Turkish Armed Forces personnel (e.g., on personnel identification cards, an explanation on the provisions of Geneva Conventions related to prisoners of war is provided on the left side of photos).

Other legal arrangements

In addition to the Geneva Conventions, which envisage special protection for children and women, Turkey is also a State party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, dated 20 November 1989, and to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, dated 28 July 1951, which include regulations to that end.

Meanwhile, according to our domestic legislation "Law of Foreigners and International Protection" (Law No. 6458) entails legal regulations for victims of armed conflict. The law regulates the entry, stay and exit of foreigners in Turkey as well as the scope and application of the protection granted to foreigners. In its section 4, entitled "Other provisions on temporary protection and international protection", the law entails regulations for foreigners who have been forced to leave their country, cannot return to the country that they have left and have arrived at or crossed the borders of Turkey in a mass influx situation seeking immediate and temporary protection. Also, in Turkish Penal Law (Law No. 5237), articles 86 to 89, 94 to 96, 109, 148, 151 and 152 include regulations on protection of victims of armed conflicts.

Turkmenistan

[Original: Russian]
[1 June 2016]

1. On 24 August 2007, an interdepartmental commission was set up in Turkmenistan to monitor compliance with the country's international human rights obligations. In 2011, by presidential decision, the commission was transformed into the Interdepartmental Commission on Compliance by Turkmenistan with its International Human Rights Obligations and International Humanitarian Law. The Interdepartmental Commission is a standing deliberative body responsible for coordinating the work of ministries, State committees, departments and local authorities, enterprises, institutions and organizations to implement the international obligations of Turkmenistan in the field of human rights and international humanitarian law.

2. As part of the Interdepartmental Commission, a working group on the incorporation of the rules of international humanitarian law into national law was set up and started work in January 2012, and a long-term workplan on international humanitarian law was approved. The working group was composed of representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Defence, the National Presidential Institute for Democracy and Human Rights and the National Red Crescent Society.

3. On 22 December 2012, the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan Act was adopted. That Act establishes the legal framework for the operation of the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan, along with its principles, objectives, powers and duties. In accordance with the Act, the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan has the following tasks:

- To assist Turkmen authorities in the conduct of humanitarian activities;
- To support the Turkmen authorities in meeting their international commitments under the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols;

- To assist in providing assistance to victims of emergencies in Turkmenistan;
- Through ICRC, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the national Red Cross or Red Crescent societies of other States, to provide assistance to persons affected by emergencies in foreign countries;
- To disseminate information about international humanitarian law and the principles and objectives of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;
- To carry out other tasks arising from the principles and purposes of the Movement, consistent with the law of Turkmenistan and with the Charter of the Red Crescent Society.

4. As a party to the principal conventions on human rights and freedoms, Turkmenistan is actively incorporating the rules of international treaties, including those of international humanitarian law, into its national legislation. Thus, on 21 November 2015, the Mejlis (parliament) of Turkmenistan adopted a law amending and supplementing the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan, pursuant to which chapter 21 of the Code, on crimes against the peace and security of humankind, has been supplemented with several new articles, including article 167-6, prescribing liability to a penalty of between 10 and 15 years' deprivation of liberty for criminal violations of the rules of international humanitarian law during armed conflicts, namely:

(a) The use of means and methods of warfare which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects;

(b The intentional infliction of extensive, long-lasting and substantial damage to the natural environment;

(c) Attacks on personnel, buildings, equipment, transport facilities and vehicles which, for the purposes of protection, display the distinctive emblems of the Red Cross and Red Crescent;

(d) Starvation of civilians as a method of combat;

(e) Recruitment in the armed forces of children under 15 years of age or permitting them to take part in hostilities;

(f) Recruitment of persons under 18 years of age in armed groups distinct from the national armed forces or their employment in hostilities as members of such armed groups;

(g) Extensive and wanton destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity;

(h) Making undefended localities and demilitarized zones the object of attack;

(i) Making protected cultural properties the object of attack or destruction or their wide-scale looting, and the perpetration of acts of vandalism against those cultural properties without any military necessity;

(j) The use without any military necessity of cultural properties under enhanced protection or of localities directly adjacent to them to maintain hostilities,

and making such properties or the localities immediately adjacent to them the object of attack;

(k) Violating truces or agreements on the cessation or suspension of hostilities or local agreements on the removal, exchange or transport of the dead and wounded left on the battlefield;

(l) Attacks on the civilian population or on its individuals;

(m) Indiscriminate attacks affecting the civilian population or civilian facilities, where it is known in advance that such attacks will cause excessive civilian casualties or inordinate damage to civilian facilities;

(n) Attacks on facilities regarded as dangerous, in full awareness that such attacks will cause excessive civilian casualties or inordinate damage to civilian facilities;

(o) Attacks on persons, when the perpetrators of the attacks are aware that the persons attacked are no longer directly involved in the hostilities;

(p) Relocation of a group of the country's own civilians to occupied territory;

(q) Unjustifiable delay in the repatriation of prisoners of war or civilians;

(r) The use in armed conflict of other means and methods of warfare prohibited by an international treaty to which Turkmenistan is a party.

5. In addition, that chapter of the Criminal Code is also supplemented by article 167-7, which establishes liability for inaction or the issuance of a criminal order in time of armed conflict. In particular, the first part of that article provides for the punishment in the form of deprivation of liberty for a term of between 7 and 15 years for deliberate failure during armed conflict by supervisors or officials acting within their authority to take all possible measures to prevent the preparation or counter the perpetration by their subordinates of the offences referred to in the second part of articles 167-4, 167-5 and 167-6 of the Code, while the second part provides for punishment in the form of deprivation of liberty for between 10 and 25 years for the issuance by supervisors or officers of orders to their subordinates to leave no survivors or of any other knowingly criminal orders or instructions aimed at the commission of the offences referred to in the first part of that article.

6. On 5 August 2015, in the offices of the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan, an event was held to present the compendium of international treaties relating to humanitarian law, namely, the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, translated into Turkmen. A campaign was organized by ICRC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and facilitated by the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan.

7. On the initiative of the Turkmen authorities, the fundamental instruments of international humanitarian law were translated into Turkmen, providing a tangible embodiment of the mission of ICRC in Turkmenistan. There is unanimous agreement that the translations will have a positive impact on the dissemination among the public at large of the principles enshrined in the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.

8. In addition, such an act serves once again to reaffirm the readiness of Turkmenistan now and in the future to respect the provisions of humanitarian law in

fulfilment of the ideals of peace and strengthened security. Further encouragement may be drawn from the extensive work being carried out by the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law. On the Society's initiative, training courses and workshops are being organized and training manuals prepared for secondary school teachers. The Society is also making a significant contribution to the work of the Interdepartmental Commission on Compliance by Turkmenistan with its International Human Rights Obligations and International Humanitarian Law.

9. On 18 August 2015, an amended version of the Turkmen act on the use and protection of the symbols of the Red Crescent and Red Cross was adopted. The act establishes the procedure and rules for the use and legal protection of the symbols of the Red Crescent and Red Cross and, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 8 June 1977, it applies to:

- Emblems of the Red Crescent and the Red Cross;
- The names "Red Crescent" and "Red Cross";
- Distinctive signs used to identify medical units and ambulances.

10. In March 2016, Turkmenistan adopted a plan of action for the period 2016-2017 on the application of international humanitarian law, setting out legislative and practical measures for the incorporation of international humanitarian law into national legislation and the wider dissemination of knowledge about international humanitarian law among public servants and various groups of the population.

11. As part of that plan of action and of the internal action plan of the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan, 132 workshops and meetings have been held to familiarize public servants and representatives of civil society organizations with international humanitarian law.

United Arab Emirates

[Original: Arabic]
[25 May 2016]

As part of the efforts undertaken by the United Arab Emirates to promote the principles of international humanitarian law in the country and meet its international humanitarian commitments, a national committee on international humanitarian law was established in 2004 in accordance with Cabinet Resolution No. (32) of 2004. The United Arab Emirates National Committee on International Humanitarian Law is the first of its kind in the Arab region.

Members of the committee include representatives from the following 10 different United Arab Emirates bodies: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; the Institute of Judicial Training Studies; the Federal National Council; the Ministry of the Interior; the Ministry of Justice; the Ministry of Education; United Arab Emirates University; the General Headquarters of Armed Forces; State Security; and the Emirates Red Crescent.

The Committee aims to promote and strengthen public awareness among institutions and individuals on the principles, goals and objectives of international humanitarian law and share experiences with the relevant associations and organizations on strengthening cooperation, and ensure implementation and

effectiveness of its provisions through coordination with the concerned authorities in reviewing legislation relevant to international law.

To achieve its goals and promote the principles of international humanitarian law, the Committee has implemented many activities and events since its establishment. In 2014-2015, the Committee undertook various activities in the areas of legislation, dissemination and definition of its provisions at the academic level and among the relevant authorities and experts through informative lectures, courses and seminars. The Committee also organized the ninth meeting of Arab Governmental Experts on National Implementation of International Humanitarian Law in January 2012 in Abu Dhabi. Moreover, United Arab Emirates universities added international humanitarian law as an elective course.

The Committee adopts biennial action plans to implement its activities, and launched its action plan for 2015-2016 on 19 January 2015.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[Original: English]
[23 June 2016]

International humanitarian law instruments

1. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ratified the Arms Trade Treaty on 2 April 2014 and the Treaty entered into force on 24 December 2014. In March 2014, the United Kingdom updated the European Union and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria (the Consolidated Criteria) to include the Treaty as an international obligation in Criterion One, and to add international humanitarian law and gender-based violence to Criterion Two.

2. The United Kingdom is a State party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which entered into force for the United Kingdom on 1 November 2010. In December 2013, the United Kingdom completed the destruction of its entire stockpile of over 38 million sub-munitions. The destruction process was carried out in a safe, secure and environmentally friendly manner.

3. On 19 May 2016, the United Kingdom Government introduced legislation into the House of Lords which will enable the United Kingdom to ratify the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and accede to its two Protocols. The United Kingdom has also committed £30 million of funding to a new Cultural Protection Fund. The fund will seek to support countries in global conflict zones to protect and restore their cultural heritage, with grant applications opening in June 2016. Together, the ratification of the 1954 Hague Convention and the Cultural Protection Fund will create a package of measures which underline the United Kingdom's strong commitment to protecting cultural heritage for future generations.

Promotion and dissemination of international humanitarian law

4. The United Kingdom published information on its weapons review process in March 2016.[5]

5. The United Kingdom will host an article 36 weapons review conference in October 2016 to better understand and share best practices in that area of international humanitarian law, which builds on a similar conference held in September 2015 which discussed the methodologies used to ensure that weapons are capable of legal use.

6. Defence Medical Services held an annual ethics symposium in October 2014 and in September 2015, both of which were supported by the British Red Cross.

7. Army Legal Services continues to second a military lawyer (currently a Colonel) to act as Director of the Military Department at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, San Remo, Italy.

8. The United Kingdom supports the international dissemination activities of the British Red Cross, including the joint British Red Cross/ICRC project which keeps current the practice section of the ICRC Study on Customary International Humanitarian Law.[6]

Armed forces

9. In the United Kingdom, all the armed forces receive training on international humanitarian law throughout their careers, covering the four fundamental principles of necessity, humanity, distinction and proportionality. International humanitarian law training is also provided as part of the mandatory predeployment training for all personnel deploying on military operations in which international humanitarian law may apply.

10. The United Kingdom Ministry of Defence has published a manual on the law of armed conflict which sets out our interpretation of international humanitarian law. Each service will deploy lawyers to operational theatres where there is a requirement to do so; when deployed, the lawyers will advise on all legal issues and provide refresher training where practicable.

11. Under the Armed Forces Act 2006, service personnel are bound by the criminal law of England and Wales wherever in the world they are serving. There is no special treatment or dispensation, and if they break criminal law they can face the consequences in court just like any other citizen. This enables those who commit war crimes to be punished.

12. The standards of conduct required of United Kingdom armed forces are, and have always been, in accordance with relevant international law, and the domestic criminal law applies to United Kingdom forces at all times. Allegations of unlawful conduct by personnel who fail to uphold the high standards expected are taken extremely seriously.

13. The United Kingdom Government does not condone any unlawful behaviour by our forces. It is for this reason the United Kingdom set up the independent Iraq

[5] Available from https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/507319/20160308-UK_weapon_reviews.pdf.

[6] Available from https://www.icrc.org/customary-ihl.

Historic Allegations team to carry out independent investigations into allegations arising from operations in Iraq.

Education and training

14. The curriculum framework in each part of the United Kingdom provides opportunities for teaching about international humanitarian law in schools.

15. The United Kingdom offers general international humanitarian law training to governmental policy and legal advisers in addition to ad hoc events and training as required. The United Kingdom also provides information on relevant international humanitarian law issues to the media in connection with events current at the time, including armed conflicts.

16. The United Kingdom National Committee on International Humanitarian Law meets annually to further develop and disseminate understanding of international humanitarian law policy and practice nationally and to discuss ways to encourage international partners to do likewise, particularly within the Commonwealth. The United Kingdom has also promoted the formation of national committees on international humanitarian law and has offered practical assistance to those wishing to do so.

Enforcement

17. The United Kingdom continues to contribute to activities carried out by the European Union to encourage States to become party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and to put in place legislation to give the Statute effect.

18. The United Kingdom contributes to the International Criminal Court and international and hybrid tribunals. United Kingdom support helps to strengthen the rules-based international system and tackle impunity for serious violations of international humanitarian law.

Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative

19. In May 2012, the former United Kingdom Foreign Secretary, William Hague, and the Special Envoy of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Angelina Jolie Pitt, co-founded the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative. The aim of the Initiative is to raise awareness and rally global action to do more to (a) address the culture of impunity that exists for these crimes; (b) increase the number of perpetrators held to account; and (c) ensure better support for survivors.

20. In 2013, the United Kingdom endorsed the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict. The Declaration recognizes that serious sexual violence and rape constitute grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and amount to war crimes. To date, it has been endorsed by 156 United Nations Member States. By endorsing the Declaration, these countries have agreed that there should be no peace agreements that give amnesty to people who have ordered or carried out rape. Suspects wanted for rape in war zones can now be arrested in any of these countries.

21. The 2014 Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, held in London, was the largest-ever meeting of its kind, bringing together representatives from more than 120 countries, 100 non-governmental and international organizations and more than 900 experts. The Summit was a milestone in bringing this issue to the

world's attention and resulted in a number of tangible achievements and outcomes, notably the launch of the first International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict. The first of its kind, the Protocol sets out the basic principles of documenting sexual violence as a crime under international law, gleaned from best practice in the field. The Protocol is not binding on States. Since its launch at the Global Summit we have translated the International Protocol into several languages (French, Spanish, Bosnian, Arabic, Albanian, Kurdish, Burmese, Serbian, Nepali and Swahili) and provided training to governments, the judiciary, police, the military and civil society to gather evidence and strengthen the prosecution of sexual violence in Bosnia, Colombia, the DRC [Democratic Republic of the Congo], Nepal, Uganda and Kosovo.

22. In 2015, Baroness Anelay of St Johns DBE was appointed the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict. Her appointment reflects the United Kingdom Government's continued determination to do all it can to end the scourge of sexual violence in conflict. Baroness Anelay has identified tackling "survivor stigma" as a priority for the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative for 2016 and has called upon all United Nations Member States, including the Initiative Champions network, to do more to ensure that survivors of sexual violence do not suffer further hardships as a result of negative social attitudes, misconceptions or a lack of understanding after their ordeals.

III. Information received from the International Committee of the Red Cross

[Original: English]
[1 June 2016]

Outcomes of the thirty-second International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

1. The thirty-second International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva in December 2015, adopted four resolutions on international humanitarian law (international humanitarian law):[7]

Resolution 1, entitled "Strengthening international humanitarian law protecting persons deprived of their liberty", recommends that in-depth State-led work be pursued to produce non-legally binding ways of strengthening international humanitarian law protection of people deprived of their liberty in relation to armed conflicts, and invites ICRC to facilitate States' work and contribute its humanitarian and legal expertise.

Resolution 2, entitled "Strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law", was adopted following a consultation process that reviewed existing international humanitarian law-compliance mechanisms and examined options for creating more effective ones. The facilitators (Switzerland and ICRC) recommended that a regular meeting of States be established with two functions: holding discussions on international humanitarian law issues and receiving States' reports on domestic implementation of international humanitarian law. The

[7] The full text of the resolutions is available from http://rcrcconference.org/international-conference/documents.

resolution recommends the continuation of a State-driven intergovernmental process based on the principle of consensus to find agreement on features and functions of a potential forum of States and to find ways to enhance the implementation of international humanitarian law using the potential of the International Conference and international humanitarian law regional forums.

Resolution 3, entitled "Sexual and gender-based violence: joint action on prevention and response", jointly submitted by ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, condemns sexual and gender-based violence and calls for a number of specific measures to prevent and respond to such violence.

Resolution 4, entitled "Health care in danger: continuing to protect the delivery of health care together", provides a strong basis for continued cooperation to address the humanitarian consequences of violence against the wounded and sick, health-care personnel and facilities and medical transport in armed conflicts or other emergencies. It also confirms key practical recommendations for preventing and addressing violence against the delivery of health care.

2. ICRC published its fourth report on international humanitarian law and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts.[8]

Initiatives taken by ICRC to reaffirm, clarify and strengthen international humanitarian law

3. In March 2016, ICRC published a new commentary on the First Geneva Convention, available online.[9]

4. Switzerland and ICRC convened a series of meetings that led to the establishment of the Montreux Document Forum in December 2014, which provides an informal platform for signatories to discuss and exchange information on challenges faced in regulating private military and security companies.

5. Recent armed conflicts have confirmed that the use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects in populated areas is a major cause of civilian death and injury, and damage to civilian homes and infrastructure, resulting in disruption to essential services and displacement of the civilian population. ICRC made known its position that "due to the significant likelihood of indiscriminate effects ... explosive weapons with a wide impact area should be avoided in densely populated areas",[10] and continued its documentation, dialogue with armed forces and awareness-raising of the effects of using explosive weapons in populated areas.

6. With regard to robotic weapon systems, ICRC convened experts' meetings in 2012 and 2014 to better understand technical and legal issues, contributed actively to ongoing discussions on the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use

[8] ICRC, "International humanitarian law and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts", report to the thirty-second International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Geneva, October 2015. Available from https://www.icrc.org/en/document/international-humanitarian-law-and-challenges-contemporary-armed-conflicts.

[9] Available from https://www.icrc.org/ihl/full/GCi-commentary.

[10] ICRC, "International humanitarian law and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts", report to the thirty-first International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Geneva, October 2011, pp. 40-42. Available from https://www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/red-cross-crescent-movement/31st-international-conference/31-int-conference-ihl-challenges-report-11-5-1-2-en.pdf.

of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, called upon all States to ensure that humans maintain control over weapon systems and the use of force, and urged parties to the Convention to set limits on autonomy to ensure that weapons systems can be used in accordance with international humanitarian law.

Discussions on new technologies of warfare have highlighted the importance of establishing or improving national procedures for determining the legality of new weapons, means and methods of warfare, in accordance with article 36 of Additional Protocol I. ICRC is currently updating its guide to the legal review of new weapons, means and methods of warfare, which will examine challenges posed by certain new technologies of warfare. ICRC has also underlined the importance of assessing the lawfulness under international humanitarian law of cyber-warfare capabilities that States develop or acquire for offensive or defensive purposes.

7. ICRC and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement have continued to raise awareness about the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and the difficulty of envisaging any use of nuclear weapons that would be compatible with international humanitarian law. In accordance with its 2011 resolution, the Movement has urged States to ensure that such weapons are never again used, and to negotiate a legally binding international agreement to prohibit their use and completely eliminate them, in accordance with States' exiting commitments and international obligations.

Legal advice and technical assistance for the national implementation of international humanitarian law

8. ICRC has continued providing national authorities with legal advice on and technical assistance with adopting the legislative, regulatory and practical measures needed to ensure full implementation of international humanitarian law in domestic law and practice. ICRC has also continued promoting adherence to and implementation of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, their Additional Protocols, and other international humanitarian law instruments.

ICRC welcomes the following accessions: State of Palestine to Additional Protocol II of 1977; Belgium, Luxembourg, State of Palestine, Romania and Sweden to Additional Protocol III of 2005; the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kiribati and the Federated States of Micronesia to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict of 2000; and Ethiopia to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1954 and its First Protocol and South Africa to its Second Protocol. Furthermore, it commends the ratification of the 2013 Arms Trade Treaty by a further 50 States since June 2014.

Sixty-six pieces of national legislation have been adopted by more than 35 States to implement elements of international humanitarian law, including on weapons, missing persons, torture and punishment of international crimes.

9. ICRC has added about 380 laws and entries on domestic case law to its public database on the national implementation of international humanitarian law.[11] The database contains up-to-date information on the national legislation and case law of

[11] Available from http://www.icrc.org/ihl-nat.

194 countries and serves as a research tool for sharing best practices and facilitating the fulfilment of States' obligations under international humanitarian law.

In April 2016, ICRC launched an international humanitarian law databases search, which is a single interface that searches the treaties, State parties and commentaries database,[12] the customary international humanitarian law database[13] and the database on the national implementation of international humanitarian law.

ICRC published an updated version of *The Domestic Implementation of International Humanitarian Law: A Manual* (2015), as well as a model law on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict.[14] In addition, ICRC continued to develop thematic tools and factsheets on sexual violence, use of force in law enforcement and missing people.[15]

[12] Available from https://www.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl-search.nsf/home.xsp?lang=EN.
[13] Available from https://www.icrc.org/customary-ihl/eng/docs/home.
[14] Available from https://www.icrc.org/en/document/protection-cultural-property-event-armed-conflict-model-law.
[15] Available from https://www.icrc.org/en/war-and-law/ihl-domestic-law/documentation.

Annex

List of States parties to the Additional Protocols of 1977 and 2005 to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 as at 1 June 2016[a]

State	*Protocol*	*Date of ratification, accession or succession*
Afghanistan	I and II	10 November 2009
Albania	I and II	16 July 1993
	III	6 February 2008
Algeria[c]	I[b] and II	16 August 1989
Angola	I[b]	20 September 1984
Antigua and Barbuda	I and II	6 October 1986
Argentina[c]	I[b] II[b]	26 November 1986
	III[b]	16 March 2011
Armenia	I and II	7 June 1993
	III	12 August 2011
Australia[c]	I[b] and II	21 June 1991
	III	15 July 2009
Austria[c]	I[b] and II[b]	13 August 1982
	III	3 June 2009
Bahamas	I and II	10 April 1980
Bahrain	I and II	30 October 1986
Bangladesh	I and II	8 September 1980
Barbados	I and II	19 February 1990
Belarus[c]	I and II	23 October 1989
	III	31 March 2011
Belgium[c]	I[b] and II	20 May 1986
	III	12 May 2015
Belize	I and II	29 June 1984
	III	3 April 2007
Benin	I and II	28 May 1986
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)[c]	I and II	8 December 1983
Bosnia and Herzegovina[c]	I and II	31 December 1992
Botswana	I and II	23 May 1979

State	*Protocol*	*Date of ratification, accession or succession*
Brazil[c]	I and II	5 May 1992
	III	28 August 2009
Brunei Darussalam	I and II	14 October 1991
Bulgaria[c]	I and II	26 September 1989
	III	13 September 2006
Burkina Faso[c]	I and II	20 October 1987
Burundi	I and II	10 June 1993
Cambodia	I and II	14 January 1998
Cameroon	I and II	16 March 1984
Canada[c]	I[b] and II[b]	20 November 1990
	III[b]	26 November 2007
Cabo Verde[c]	I and II	16 March 1995
Central African Republic	I and II	17 July 1984
Chad	I and II	17 January 1997
Chile[c]	I and II	24 April 1991
	III	6 July 2009
China	I[b] and II[b]	14 September 1983
Colombia[c]	I	1 September 1993
	II	14 August 1995
Comoros	I and II	21 November 1985
Congo	I and II	10 November 1983
Cook Islands[c]	I and II	7 May 2002
	III	7 September 2011
Costa Rica[c]	I and II	15 December 1983
	III	30 June 2008
Côte d'Ivoire	I and II	20 September 1989
Croatia[c]	I and II	11 May 1992
	III	13 June 2007
Cuba	I	25 November 1982
	II	23 June 1999

State	Protocol	Date of ratification, accession or succession
Cyprus[c]	I	1 June 1979
	II	18 March 1996
	III	27 November 2007
Czech Republic[c]	I and II	5 February 1993
	III	23 May 2007
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	I	9 March 1988
Democratic Republic of the Congo[c]	I	3 June 1982
	II	12 December 2002
Denmark[c]	I[b] and II	17 June 1982
	III	25 May 2007
Djibouti	I and II	8 April 1991
Dominica	I and II	25 April 1996
Dominican Republic	I and II	26 May 1994
	III	1 April 2009
Ecuador	I and II	10 April 1979
Egypt	I[b] and II[b]	9 October 1992
El Salvador	I and II	23 November 1978
	III	12 September 2007
Equatorial Guinea	I and II	24 July 1986
Estonia[c]	I and II	18 January 1993
	III	28 February 2008
Ethiopia	I and II	8 April 1994
Fiji	I, II and III	30 July 2008
Finland[c]	I[b] and II	7 August 1980
	III	14 January 2009
France	I[b]	11 April 2001
	II[b]	24 February 1984
	III	17 July 2009
Gabon	I and II	8 April 1980
Gambia	I and II	12 January 1989
Georgia	I and II	14 September 1993
	III	19 March 2007

State	Protocol	Date of ratification, accession or succession
Germany[c]	I[b] and II[b]	14 February 1991
	III	17 June 2009
Ghana	I and II	28 February 1978
Greece[c]	I	31 March 1989
	II	15 February 1993
	III	26 October 2009
Grenada	I and II	23 September 1998
Guatemala	I and II	19 October 1987
	III	14 March 2008
Guinea[c]	I and II	11 July 1984
Guinea-Bissau	I and II	21 October 1986
Guyana	I and II	18 January 1988
	III	21 September 2009
Haiti	I and II	20 December 2006
Holy See	I[b] and II[b]	21 November 1985
Honduras	I and II	16 February 1995
	III	8 December 2006
Hungary[c]	I and II	12 April 1989
	III	15 November 2006
Iceland[c]	I[b] and II	10 April 1987
	III	4 August 2006
Iraq	I	1 April 2010
Ireland[c]	I[b] and II[b]	19 May 1999
Israel	III[b]	22 November 2007
Italy[c]	I[b] and II	27 February 1986
	III	29 January 2009
Jamaica	I and II	29 July 1986
Japan[c]	I[b] and II	31 August 2004
Jordan	I and II	1 May 1979
Kazakhstan	I and II	5 May 1992
	III	24 June 2009

State	*Protocol*	*Date of ratification, accession or succession*
Kenya	I and II	23 February 1999
	III	28 October 2013
Kuwait[c]	I and II	17 January 1985
Kyrgyzstan	I and II	18 September 1992
Lao People's Democratic Republic[c]	I and II	18 November 1980
Latvia	I and II	24 December 1991
	III	2 April 2007
Lebanon	I and II	23 July 1997
Lesotho[c]	I and II	20 May 1994
Liberia	I and II	30 June 1988
Libya	I and II	7 June 1978
Liechtenstein[c]	I[b] and II[b]	10 August 1989
	III	24 August 2006
Lithuania[c]	I and II	13 July 2000
	III	28 November 2007
Luxembourg[c]	I and II	29 August 1989
	III	27 January 2015
Madagascar[c]	I and II	8 May 1992
Malawi[c]	I and II	7 October 1991
Maldives	I and II	3 September 1991
Mali[c]	I and II	8 February 1989
Malta[c]	I[b] and II[b]	17 April 1989
Mauritania	I and II	14 March 1980
Mauritius	I[b] and II[b]	22 March 1982
Mexico	I	10 March 1983
	III	7 July 2008
Micronesia (Federated States of)	I and II	19 September 1995
Monaco[c]	I and II	7 January 2000
	III	12 March 2007
Mongolia[c]	I[b] and II	6 December 1995
Montenegro[c]	I and II	2 August 2006
Morocco	I[b] and II	3 June 2011

State	*Protocol*	*Date of ratification, accession or succession*
Mozambique	I	14 March 1983
	II	12 November 2002
Namibia[c]	I[b] and II[b]	18 October 1983
Nauru	I and II	27 June 2006
	III	4 December 2012
Netherlands[c]	I[b] and II[b]	26 June 1987
	III[b]	13 December 2006
New Zealand[c]	I[b] and II[b]	8 February 1988
	III	23 October 2013
Nicaragua	I and II	19 July 1999
	III	2 April 2009
Niger	I and II	8 June 1979
Nigeria	I and II	10 October 1988
Norway[c]	I and II	14 December 1981
	III	13 June 2006
Oman	I[b] and II[b]	29 March 1984
Palau	I and II	25 June 1996
Panama[c]	I and II	18 September 1995
	III	30 April 2012
Paraguay[c]	I and II	30 November 1990
	III	13 October 2008
Peru	I and II	14 July 1989
Philippines	I[b]	30 March 2012
	II	11 December 1986
	III	22 August 2006
Poland[c]	I and II	23 October 1991
	III	26 October 2009
Portugal[c]	I[b] and II[b]	27 May 1992
	III	22 April 2014
Qatar[c]	I[b]	5 April 1988
	II	5 January 2005
Republic of Korea[c]	I[b] and II	15 January 1982

State	Protocol	Date of ratification, accession or succession
Republic of Moldova	I and II	24 May 1993
	III[b]	19 August 2008
Romania[c]	I and II	21 June 1990
	III	15 May 2015
Russian Federation[c]	I[b] and II[b]	29 September 1989
Rwanda[c]	I and II	19 November 1984
Saint Kitts and Nevis[c]	I and II	14 February 1986
Saint Lucia	I and II	7 October 1982
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines[c]	I and II	8 April 1983
Samoa	I and II	23 August 1984
San Marino	I and II	5 April 1994
	III	22 June 2007
Sao Tome and Principe	I and II	5 July 1996
Saudi Arabia	I[b]	21 August 1987
	II	28 November 2001
Senegal	I and II	7 May 1985
Serbia[c]	I and II	16 October 2001
	III	18 August 2010
Seychelles[c]	I and II	8 November 1984
Sierra Leone	I and II	21 October 1986
Singapore	III	7 July 2008
Slovakia[c]	I and II	2 April 1993
	III	30 May 2007
Slovenia[c]	I and II	26 March 1992
	III	10 March 2008
Solomon Islands	I and II	19 September 1988
South Africa	I and II	21 November 1995
South Sudan	I, II and III	25 January 2013
Spain[c]	I[b] and II	21 April 1989
	III	10 December 2010
State of Palestine	I[b]	2 April 2014
	II and III	4 January 2015

State	*Protocol*	*Date of ratification, accession or succession*
Sudan	I	7 March 2006
	II	13 July 2006
Suriname	I and II	16 December 1985
	III	25 June 2013
Swaziland	I and II	2 November 1995
Sweden[c]	I[b] and II	31 August 1979
	III[b]	21 August 2014
Switzerland[c]	I and II	17 February 1982
	III[b]	14 July 2006
Syrian Arab Republic	I[b]	14 November 1983
Tajikistan[c]	I and II	13 January 1993
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[c]	I[b] and II	1 September 1993
	III	14 October 2008
Timor-Leste	I and II	12 April 2005
	III	29 July 2011
Togo[c]	I and II	21 June 1984
Tonga[c]	I and II	20 January 2003
Trinidad and Tobago[c]	I and II	20 July 2001
Tunisia	I and II	9 August 1979
Turkmenistan	I and II	10 April 1992
Uganda	I and II	13 March 1991
	III	21 May 2008
Ukraine[c]	I and II	25 January 1990
	III	19 January 2010
United Arab Emirates[c]	I[b] and II[b]	9 March 1983
United Kingdom[c]	I[b] and II[b]	28 January 1998
	III[b]	23 October 2009
United Republic of Tanzania	I and II	15 February 1983
United States of America	III[b]	8 March 2007
Uruguay[c]	I and II	13 December 1985
	IIII	19 October 2012
Uzbekistan	I and II	8 October 1993

State	*Protocol*	*Date of ratification, accession or succession*
Vanuatu	I and II	28 February 1985
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	I and II	23 July 1998
Viet Nam	I	19 October 1981
Yemen	I and II	17 April 1990
Zambia	I and II	4 May 1995
Zimbabwe	I and II	19 October 1992

[a] The list was provided by Switzerland as Depository of the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols. Information was taken from the website of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (www.dfae.admin.ch/depositaire).

[b] Ratification, accession or succession accompanied by a reservation and/or a declaration.

[c] Party which has made the declaration provided for under article 90 of Protocol I.